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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Professor W. C. Coker, of the University of North Carolina, continued his studies of the Clavariaceae in the herbarium of the Garden during August.

Mr. L. O. Overholts, of State College, Pennsylvania, was given a research scholarship for August 15 to September 15, to complete his study of the genus *Pholiota* for *North American Flora.*

Mr. Percy Wilson recently collected a specimen of *Tyromyces Spraguei* on the base of a living larch tree growing in the grounds of the New York Botanical Garden. This fungus occurs abundantly on chestnut and oak throughout the northeastern United States, but has never before been reported on a conifer. Mr. Weir found *Grifola Berkeleyi,* an oak-loving species, attacking the roots of larch in Idaho. Possibly the larch is more deciduous than has been supposed!

M. Paul Hariot, author of various works on fungi and algae, and for many years in charge of the cryptogamic collections at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, died on July 5, from diabetic complications. The broad-minded liberality and tireless patience with which M. Hariot always placed the treasures of his department of the museum at the service of the scientific men of the world will long be held in grateful remembrance by American botanists.

In a recent number of the *Botanical Gazette,* Harry M. Fitzpatrick discussed the development of the ascocarp of *Rhizina undulata.* The Helvellaceae have formerly been separated from the other orders of the discomycetes by the fact that the fruit body is open from the first. The erroneousness of this distinction has been abundantly established by various workers. The genus *Rhizina* shows no evidence of an enclosing veil at any stage in its development, a fact which has been demonstrated by Fitzpatrick. The sexual apparatus is to be described in a later paper.

A specimen of *Schizophyllus alneus* (L.) Schroet., usually known as *S. commune,* was found on September 3, 1917, by Dr. G. Clyde Fisher, at Douglaston, Long Island, growing on a rotten apple. Several sporophores had emerged from the substratum at three or four points and had just about reached maturity when I saw the specimen. This would seem to indicate that spore germination and development of fruit-bodies may proceed quite rapidly in this species.

"The Cultivation and Diseases of the Sweet Pea" is the title of a book recently published by J. J. Taubenhaus, of the Texas Experiment Station, with an introduction by Mel Cook, of Rutgers College, New Jersey. The book is based largely on the practical experience of the writer and is written in a popular manner so as to appeal to the practical grower. About half of the book is devoted to the culture of the sweet pea and the remainder to the diseases which threaten to discourage the cultivation of this ornamental plant. The various insect and fungous pests are considered in detail with suggestions for their control. The book consists of xx + 232 pages with 46 figures and is printed in large type so as to be easily legible.

A disease of the hemlock tree due to *Fomitiporia tsugina* Murrill was discovered by Mr. Percy Wilson at East Hebron, New Hampshire, in August, 1905. In July, 1917, Mr. Wilson revisited the type locality and gathered specimens from the trunk of the same tree, which was found to be dead and prostrate on the ground. These latter specimens were over an inch thick and broadly effused over the trunk. Living hemlocks recently examined by Mr. Wilson near Bristol, New Hampshire, were also found to be attacked by this fungus, which is known to occur in New Hampshire and New York, always confined to the hemlock. The disease is probably important and should be further investigated both by foresters and mycologists.